

MINUTES
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center
April 14, 2006

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Neil Bernstein, Chair
Robin Fortney
Scott Moats
Cindy Peterson
Liz Christiansen
Armando Rosales
Laura Jackson

STAFF PRESENT

John Pearson
Daryl Howell
Lisa Ogle

ADVISORS PRESENT

Bob McKay

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Neil Bernstein called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM on April 14, 2006 at the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center in Ottumwa.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Neil Bernstein requested that Item 7 - Open discussion be taken up after the approval of the minutes.

Add: 7a - Garrison Rock discussion (Neil Bernstein)
 7b - Linn County – Rock Island (Neil Bernstein)
 7c - Presentation (Liz Christiansen)

<i>Motion was made by Armando Rosales to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Robin Fortney. Motion carried.</i>

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<i>Motion was made by Liz Christiansen to approve the January 6, 2006 minutes as presented. Seconded by Laura Jackson. Motion carried.</i>

OPEN DISCUSSION

Garrison Rock

Neil Bernstein asked the Board if Garrison Rock is ready for preserve status. We should move forward with preserve status, because this site is very diverse geologically, archeologically, historically and biologically. This is a unique site that deserves extended protection.

Cindy Peterson said that the archeological survey recorded some great Indian mounds. This site is very prehistoric. There are large tracts of the proposed preserve that have not yet been checked.

Robin Fortney said that the management plan should address the diverse areas and how each should be protected and managed.

Neil Bernstein said that we will wait to hear from the Wapello County Conservation Board on when the management plan for Garrison Rock is complete and ready for a decision on preserve status.

Linn County Conservation Board

Neil Bernstein said that the Linn County Conservation Board passed a new resolution, which negates all previous resolutions and states that they want to cooperate with the various agencies to examine the corridor that goes through the three county preserve parcels. They would like to wait until the information from the studies comes in and then make a decision based from that. This was a split decision of the Board.

The board continued discussing the proposed road locations and the impact to Rock Island and Hanging Bog preserves.

Presentation of Service Plaques

Liz Christiansen presented plaques to Neil Bernstein and Robin Fortney for their service on the State Preserves Board and to the State of Iowa.

ANDERSON PRAIRIE

Back in October, Bryan Hellyer, Natural Resources Biologist, noticed that the boundary fence was cut and each of the three outlets was constructed on state property without following the IDNR construction permit procedure. All three outlets had soil removed on state property. The construction permit process was not followed in this instance.

John Pearson said that Bryan Hellyer, Natural Resources Biologist has been working closely with the landowner's son (Rich Leprid) regarding the tile outlets and the damage done.

Requirements were presented to the landowner by Bryan Hellyer in a letter and were verbally agreed upon by the landowner with only a few exceptions. They are willing to fix the problem. The construction permit would allow the DNR to meet with adjoining landowners so everyone's objectives and goals are met.

Laura Jackson was concerned that this type of ordeal will become more of a problem as the landowner's age and the land managers take on the duties of the land.

Scott Moats said that he is upset with the insensitivity to public land, when and where will it stop. We need to find good ways to create public awareness of the preserve and field days for the land managers.

Laura Jackson said that the board needs to build a relationship with the preserve neighbors whether it's Christmas cards, postcards, a visit, etc.

Neil Bernstein asked if an internship could be created within the DNR to develop a database of all preserve neighbors and contact information.

Motion was made by Neil Bernstein to direct the landowner's to re-surface, re-fence, re-seed and remove all tile lines from the effecting the preserves and to refer this case to the DNR legal services. Seconded by Robin Fortney.

John Pearson said that there were a couple of tile lines previously in place. They were replacing the old tile lines. Since the original tiles, soil erosion has occurred on private land and the land has sloped over the years, changing the drainage and form of the land. They replaced the new tile line and directed the runoff in the best way.

Neil Bernstein said that it doesn't matter that the land topography has changed. Their tile line is on preserves land and it's damaging it, they are in violation of the preserves act. They need to put the tile line in a place where it doesn't affect the preserve.

Robin Fortney said that it seems that we should go with the recommendations made by Bryan. No matter what is decided, we are still down slope from this property so the run off will drain onto the preserve.

Bob McKay asked about receiving monies for the damage done and/or for the draining of run off onto our preserve (use of the land).

Laura Jackson agreed.

Neil Bernstein withdrew his motion.

John Pearson said that this is a brome field which is part of the preserve, but it is acting as a buffer to the native prairie.

Motion was made by Liz Christiansen to accept Bryan Heller's recommendations and that the state preserves board directs a letter to the property owner expressing that we agree to this but recognize the damage that occurred and respect for the land. Seconded by Laura Jackson.

Amended motion was made by Scott Moats to include that re-seeding needs to be done. Seconded by Robin Fortney.

Laura Jackson asked if we could receive compensation for the seeds and extra management of the land.

Scott Moats withdrew his amended motion.

Neil Bernstein said that he will draft a letter to the land owner and then circulate it to the board members for approval.

Liz Christiansen's motion carried.

Neil Bernstein was not in favor the motion.

Steele Prairie

The private land biologists are excited about getting landowners informed about conservation practices. Kathy Kostavich will be working with the NRCS. There has been a set back because the NRCS director became ill. They will be following up with the landowner's this summer.

RESEARCH REQUEST

Wayne Ohnesorg and Jessica Orlofske, graduate students at Iowa State University, are requesting permission to conduct surveys for invertebrates at Doolittle Prairie, Liska-Stanek Prairie, Rolling Thunder Prairie, and Sheeder Prairie.

Laura Jackson requested that the students conducting the samples, replace the soil used for surveying with no weed soil.

Motion was made by Laura Jackson to approve the research survey as presented with the adoption of stated request. Seconded by Scott Moats. Motion carried.

SEED HARVEST REQUEST

Bill Johnson, DNR biologist with the Seed Harvest Team, has requested permission to continue hand harvest from the preserves. A report of the 2005 harvest was presented to the Preserves Board.

Motion was made by Armando Rosales to approve the seed harvest request as presented. Seconded by Laura Jackson. Motion carried.

PROPOSAL SELECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

Neil Bernstein suggested that since the Preserves Board agrees that the Glenwood Hospital site should move forward with the preserve process that monies should be set aside for the management plan before we select project proposals for 2007.

Neil Bernstein said that the board has about \$36,000 for to spend on selected projects. The board previously asked for a management plan for Glenwood Hospital and Kathy Gourley, a previous member had agreed to that task. Since then she has taken on different duties and responsibilities at her job and is unable to draft up a plan. John Doershuk, who works with Kathy gave the board a proposal for a draft archaeological resource management plan.

Laura Jackson said that we should set aside \$5,000 of the \$36,000 for the management plan but hope that they won't go over the amount but charge us for what the actual costs are.

Motion was made by Laura Jackson to set aside \$5,000 for the Glenwood Hospital management plan and the amount to be capped at \$5,000. Seconded by Liz Christiansen. Motion carried.

Cindy Peterson abstained from voting.

The Preserves board members went through and individually discussed each proposal submitted. The final projects were the chosen based on the average score of all board members.

Scoring Criteria included the following three aspects:

1. Benefit of proposed study to state preserves or preserve system. Higher scores will be assigned to proposals which provide information pertinent to the management of individual preserves, contribute to solving management problems that affect several preserves, aid in identifying potential preserves, or otherwise yield information which can be used to improve the protection and management of preserves.
2. Feasibility of proposed study. Are the goals and objective of the study clearly state and achievable? Is the requested funding commensurate with the effort required? Are the personnel qualified to perform the study?
3. Soundness of methodology. Are the methods suited to the goals and objectives? Will the study have unacceptable impacts to the study sites? Are the number, size and distribution of samples or observations sufficient? Are the analytical methods appropriate?

Proposals Selected (all are within our funding of \$31,000)

- 1) Phillips – Aquatic plant survey of Angler Bay, a potential preserve
- 2) Weihe and Benedict – Biological surveys of Garrison Rock
- 3) Healy and Tiffany – Macrofungi of Brushy Creek, Woodman Hollow and Liska-Stanek
- 4) Norris, Watson and Farrar – 10 year resurvey of plots of four preserves
- 5) Furlong – Butterfly survey of Gitchie Manitou
- 6) Olsen – Butterfly survey of Fossil and Prairie Park
- 7) Roosa – Botanical survey of Brushy Creek

Mr. Baker suggested that the Wapello County Conservation board may be able to provide some additional funding so that the Watson Hill Prairie management could be included in the proposals selected. Mr. Baker will discuss this option with the conservation board and get back with the Preserves board.

Laura Jackson also suggested that Mr. Watson maybe able to reduce some costs and then have the remaining amount to be paid by the County Conservation board.

Motion was made by Laura Jackson to approve the projects selected pending additional funding (\$1000) to include the Watson Hill Prairie management. Seconded by Liz Christiansen. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Robin Fortney nominated Laura Jackson for Chair.

Cindy Peterson nominated Scott Moats for Chair.

Scott Moats nominated Cindy Peterson for Chair.

Laura Jackson nominated Cindy Peterson for Chair. Seconded by Armando Rosales.

Cindy Peterson said that she will accept the chair position if all other nominees decline.

Laura Jackson accepted the nomination for her as chair.

Cindy Peterson withdrew from nomination as chair since Laura Jackson accepted.

Motion carried to nominate Laura Jackson as Chair person for the State Preserves Advisory Board.

NEXT MEETING

July 13 - 14 will be held at Cameron Woods near Dixon in Scott County.

September 8th – Tour of Perkins Prairie and the meeting at Boone Research Station in Ledges State Park

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Laura Jackson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Liz Christiansen. Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Neil Bernstein adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM on April 14, 2006.

A

Adjournment, 7
Anderson Prairie, 2
Approval of agenda, 1
Approval of Minutes, 1

B

Board Members Present, 1

C

call to order, 1

E

Election of chair, 7

G

Garrison Rock, 2

L

Linn County Conservation Board, 2

N

Next Meeting, 7

O

Open Discussion, 2

P

Proposal Selection for Fiscal Year 2007, 5

R

Research request, 4

S

seed harvest request, 5
staff present, 1
Steele Prairie, 4